

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Ralph E. Deem, Jr. )  
Serial No. )  
Filed: )  
For: Apparatus And Method For Hydraulically )  
Interconnecting A Bottled Water Dispenser )  
With An Automatic Ice Maker And Water )  
Chiller )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Sacramento, California 95814-4496

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Applicant submits, herewith, copies of the patent documents of which he is aware, and which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose to the Office, in accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.56:

U.S. Patent No. 4,987,746  
U.S. Patent No. 4,207,994  
U.S. Patent No. 4,941,806  
U.S. Patent No. 4,027,499  
U.S. Patent No. 5,901,880  
U.S. Patent No. 5,558,256  
U.S. Patent Application Publication US/2001/0030201 A1

Attached are form PTO-1449 and a legible copy of each of the above-identified references.

In accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR Section 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 CFR Section 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement

shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made, or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR Section 1.56(a) exists.

Applicant believes and submits, that his claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art known to him, including the above-discussed references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Michael West", written over a horizontal line.

R. Michael West  
for Law Offices of R. Michael West

RMW/lc  
Enclosures

The correspondence address  
for this application is:

R. Michael West  
Law Offices of R. Michael West  
A Professional Corporation  
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 405  
Sacramento, California 95814-4496  
Telephone: (916) 444-5444  
Facsimile: (916) 444-5441  
E-mail: mwest@saciplaw.com

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

Sheet

1

of

1

Attorney Docket Number

10606

**Complete if  $K_n \leq n$**

Application Number

Filing Date

**First Named Inventor**

Ralph E. Deem, Jr.

### Art Unit

Examiner Name

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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